6-1943

Guardian
Boston, Mass.

APR 10 1943 JIMMIE LUNCEFORD APR 10 1943

who brings his popular dance band to Horticultural Hall on Fri. Nite, April 23, to play for a dance, was the first orchestra leader of his race to win a license as an airplane Pilot. Larry Clinton, Bobby Byrne, and Buddy Rogers are among white conductors who sport wings. For about three months in 1942, Lunceford proudly flew his own ship to engagements. He purchased a Bellanca in July, cracked it up and injured himself slightly in a night landing at Terry Fork, Ohio, in September. Before it could be repaired, the government grounded all private planes for the duration.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Aviation Teachers Do Well In Carolina

APR 24 1943

GOLDSBORO, N. C.—ANP)—Although the colored civilian aviation instructors who were sent to Texas and Mississippi have been returned north, those at Seymour Johnson field here are getting along well.

There are 17 instructors here, each a specialist in some field. They instruct soldiers and civilians in engine repair, propeller care, and in every phase of maintenance.

The men stationed here received their original training at Chanute Field, Ill. Several here were stationed briefly in Mississippi. Those who were at Gulfport report that they received every courtesy there until their presence became a political issue and the governor of the state protested Negroes teaching white soldiers in that state.

PM's Sunday
New York
June 20/43

Eight planes manned by Negro Civil Air Patrol pilots participated in the mock air raid over Chicago Sunday and this week, the Office of Civilian Defense extended words of praise to Lieutenant Cornelius R. Coffey and his adjutant, Willa Brown, for their work.

The White Sox park was assigned to Lieutenant Coffey's group to "bomb" and according to OCD officials they did a "fine job."

SUCCESS Lt. Willa B. Brown of the Civil Air Patrol visits Cafe Society Uptown. Lt. Brown is the first Negro woman in the CAP. She is also director of the only Negro flying school in America, at Oak Lawn, Ill.

FLIER IN D.C.—Lt. Will[illegible] of the Chicago Civilian Air Patrol, which is now a War Department unit, is in Washington for a short stay. Lt. Brown came here for an important conference with Lt. Col. Jack Vilas who is executive officer for Washington's Civilian Air Patrol. Lt. Brown is the adjutant to Squadron 613-6. She is the supervisor for the Coffey School of Aeronautics in Harlem Airport, Oakland, Ill. She is also coordinator of War Training of the Civil Aeronautic Administration, which supervises the Enlisted Reservists of the Air Corps. She holds C.A.A., Ground School Instructor, Aircraft and Aircraft Engine Mechanic, and Third Class Radio Operator certificates. She has had more than a thousand hours of flying. Lt. Brown took part in the recent "sham" bombing of Chicago.—

JUN 2 1943

8 Negro Pilots 'Bomb' Sox Park

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

Tells Great Part Race Is Playing In Plane Industry

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

AUG 1 1943

By HARRY LEVETTE

LOS ANGELES — (ANP) When the exploits of the colored flyers in the present conflict are recorded, the thoughts of the historians will naturally turn to the first steps in aviation taken by the Negro. Then if the truth is faithfully followed, it will be learned that the west coast saw not only the first definite attempts to force a way for the dark pilots into commercial and military aviation, but also that a Negro pilot made the first flight over Los Angeles for official panoramic photographs now on file in the records of the western metropolis.

This was done by Maceo Sheffield, then a highly valued lieutenant of detectives on the Los Angeles Police force, who had taken up and mastered aviation as a hobby. He made the flight in his own ship, a bi-plane, and according to record, the first aircraft privately owned by a Negro. Dr. J. Porter Davis of Kansas City, who bought one a few years later, is said to have been the second to own his own plane.

AUG 15 1943

HONOR BESSIE COLEMAN

Among the important events participated in besides the Sheffield exploit was the honors shown the late Bessie Coleman, who reached here at end of a coast to coast exhibition tour shortly before her death in 1925. Two other colored pilots, Herman Banning and Ace Foreman, met tragic deaths here as martyrs to the Negro in aviation. Still another, Lt. William Powell, veritably worked himself to death teaching aviation and trying to secure recognition for the Negro in commercial and army aviation.

But the man who deserve his share of a limelight when the air history of the Negro is told, is a man who never sought it but who spent thousands attempting to make it possible for Negroes to fly. This is Arthur Dennis, now a shipyard employe, but formerly a leading business man and sportsman.

Familiarly known as "Small" to his many friends, he financed the first aviation school for Negroes in America. It was located at Washington and Central avenue and headed by Ace Foreman, and had at one time 42 boys and six girl pupils, with a white man named Warren as instructor. Negroes were not admitted to the other few aviation schools here.

Warren, who was an instructor at one of these by day, was employed by Dennis to come over and teach his "boys" at night. Incidentally, Sheffield, who had studied privately under one of the best white flyers on the coast, had taught Foreman, a fine ambitious young fellow then in his early 20's.

SON IN AFRICA

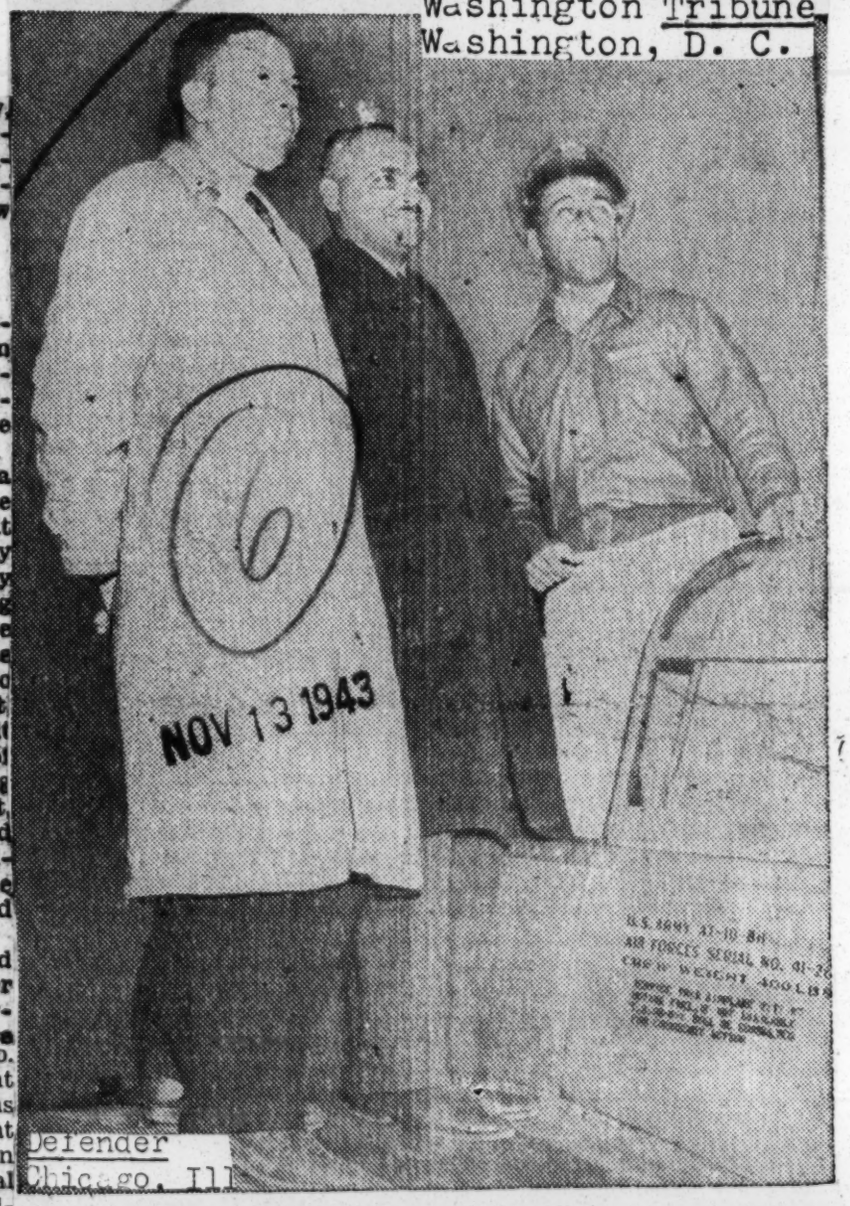
When Powell, an expert in aeronautics, came to the coast from Chicago, he organized all the air-minded group into a "Bessie Coleman Aero Club" later setting up the Bessie Coleman Aviation School.

Dennis, who was imbued with a great love for aviation, although he never learned to fly, recently felt a father's pride in honors won by his young son while in the army air school at Tuskegee. Young Dennis is perhaps now "somewhere in North Africa, (or Italy)." The plane that carried the first Negro aviators on a coast to coast flight from Los Angeles to N. Y., was built at Dennis' expense from parts of other old planes. Herman Banning and Thomas Allen made this flight, but it was interrupted by a forced landing at Pittsburgh. However, following repairs there, made by the Pittsburgh Courier, they proceeded on to New York.

Los Angeles Negroes also staged one of the greatest welcomes ever accorded colored flyers when Forsythe and Anderson arrived here from New Jersey several years ago. This was the first east-west flight by colored aviators. Coast citizens are hopefully watching the current history of the 99th squadron in Sicily, for among them are several California boys who may bring added honors to their state.

PIONEER PILOTS AT TUSKEGEE

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.



NOV 13 1943

Defender
Chicago, Ill

Fond memories of thrills from pioneer flying days were rekindled for two aviation "old timers" at the Tuskegee Army Air field when Dr. Albert E. Forsythe of Atlantic City, N. J. (center), visited his old flying chum, Charles Anderson, chief flight instructor at the 66th Army Air Forces flying training detachment (left). Lt. Cassius A. Harris, III, of Philadelphia, Pa. (right), accomapnied the pioneer pilots on their tour of the modern army planes at this station. Both men are inseparable in the annuals of early Negro aviation in America, having been the first of their race to make a transcontinental trip to Haiti in the early thirties.